

REMARKS

Claims 9-16 are currently pending in the subject application. Claims 9, 13 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 10 and 15 are independent. Claims 10-12 and 15-16 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,052 to Renger (hereinafter “the Renger reference”), rejected claims 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art (“the AAPA”) in view of the Renger reference, and allowed claims 10-12, 15 and 16.

B. Asserted Rejections Based on Art

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Renger reference. Claim 13 has been canceled, thereby obviating this rejection.

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of the Renger reference. Claims 9 and 14 have been canceled, thereby obviating this rejection.

C. Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s allowance of claims 10-12, 15 and 16. As these are the only claims now pending, it is respectfully that the application is in condition for allowance.

D. Conclusion

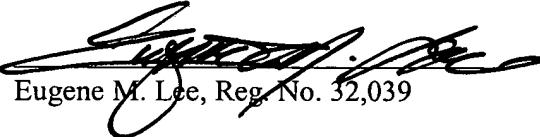
If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.